

[8th August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Statement

(Rupees in crores)

SI N	Name of the foreign company	Amount invested	Service
1.	Bell Canada International Inc. Canada	7.6	Cellular
2.	Bell Canada International India Cellular Ltd., Mauritius	22.04	Cellular
3.	AIG Mauritius Ltd., Mauritius	7.16	Cellular
4.	AT&T Cellular Pvt. Ltd., Mauritius	135.66	Cellular
5.	France Telecom Mobile International, France	11.96	Cellular
6.	Motorola India Network Ltd., Mauritius	5.07	Cellular
7.	Dista Com Communications India Ltd.,	19.77	Cellular
8.	AIR TOUCH International Mauritius Ltd., Mauritius	1.16	Cellular
9.	Telesystem Mauritius	0.90	Cellular
10	PCM Mauritius	0.90	Cellular
11	Mobile Wireless Co. Ltd., Mauritius	0.90	Cellular

Note: There has been no substantial foreign investment in respect of Basic and Paging Services during the above period.

Charges of local calls by telephone booths

1740. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone booths providing local call, STD and ISD facilities working in Bangalore city;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that most of telephone booths charge Rs. 2 for local call which is not seen in any other town; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to stop this daylight robbery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 11,364 telephone booths providing local call, STD and ISD facilities are working in Bangalore city.

- (b) Sir, some complaints of overcharging are being received.
- (c) In order to curb the practices of over-charging the customers by the franchisees, various steps have been taken which included the following:—
- (i) Complaint Cell has been set up under each area General Managers to look into the complaints of over-charging.
 - (ii) Periodical surprise check of the PCOs are done.
 - (iii) Additional CCB PCOs are being introduced regularly.
 - (iv) More local PCOs are provided in the city in order to increase the competition and reduce the monopoly of the existing **PCO** operators.

Provision of Internet facility in Bihar

† 1741. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have a proposal to provide the facility of internet in the country specially in various districts of Bihar;
- (b) if so, the names of the cities in Bihar where the facility of internet has already been provided is proposed to be provided in the current year; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c)

- (i) The following cities/Districts Headquarters in Bihar have been provided with Internet Nodes:

Ara, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Chapra, Durbhanga, Dhanbad, Hajipur, Jamshepur, Khagaria, Munger, Muzzaffarpur, Motihari, Patna and Ranchi.

- (ii) Government has also extended Internet facility to all District Headquarters of Bihar through access to the nearest Internet node on local call charges basis.

(iii) In order to further improve the services in the State of Bihar, Internet nodes, in the current year, are planned to be set up at the following

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.